THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Madam. The cable has been partially damaged due to laying of water supply pipe-line work at village Beguampur and Damankhanda.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam, The cable was badly damaged, but it was got repaired and connections were restored and made workable. Other agencies involved in digging work have been instructed to inform concerned BSNL authorities before digging. Nalanda-Gajrajbigha cable route is patroled regulary.

W.L.L. FACILITY

†779. SHRI D. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Uttar Pradesh which would be provided with W.L.L. facility during the current year;

(b) whether this facility would also be provided in Mainpuri district;

(c) if so, the time-frame fixed for providing this facility to each of the districts including Mainpuri;

(d) whether Government are aware that telephone consumers in the village of Kargil Martyr of Mainpuri district are facing difficulties due to theft of telephone cables, whether these villages would be provided with W.L.L phone facility on priority basis;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) 48 districts of Uttar Pradesh are planned to be provided with W.L.L. facility during the current year.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) It is planned to provide W.L.L. in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh by August 2002 including Mainpuri.

(d) Yes, Sir. There were nine cases of cable theft in the village of Kargil

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Martyr from 27.8.2001 to 11.2.2002. Cables have since been replaced W.L.L. phone facility is planned to be provided in the village after deployment of W.L.L. systems.

(e) and (f) By August, 2002.

Linking of Speed Post stations to National Level Centres

780. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to link all 800 Speed Post stations to 120 National level centres for providing enhanced postal services;

(b) the details of the measures Government have devised to check default in the 'Speed Post Services' due to fault of the postal officials deliberately or otherwise; and

(c) whether there is any scheme in pipeline to provide similar service for rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Each of the State Speed Post Centres are already linked to one of the National Speed Post Centres for processing of the Speed Post articles. All these State Speed Post Centres have already been authorised to book Speed Post articles for all National as well as International Speed Post Centres at par with the 120 National Speed Post Centres.

(b) The delivery efficiency of Speed Post Service is monitored in a sustained and regular manner to identify the number of articles delivered on time and the causes for delay, if any. If the delay is on account of negligence on the part of any departmental official, suitable punitive action is taken.

(c) No, Sir.

Backwardness in communication and IT

†781. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is consistently lagging behind in the field of communications and information technology despite plenty of claims made by Government;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.